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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 SAM-01 IO-10 PM-03

NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00

PRS-01 INRE-00 NSCE-00 /057 W
---------- 052800
O 091030Z APR 75
FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1483
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 1286

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT CY GR
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE RESIGNATION OF GLAFCOS CLERIDES

REF; NICOSIA 1268

1. REPORTS OF IMMINENT CLERIDES RESIGNATION HAVE RETURNED TO CENTER STAGE IN GREEK CYPRUS. CLERIDES HAS MADE NO REPEAT NO PUBLIC STATEMENT, BUT HAS LET IT BE KNOWN THAT HE SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING SUCH STEP.

2. FROM TALKS WITH CLERIDES' ADVISORS (NICOS KOSHIS, XANTHOS CLERIDES) AND PRESS ACCOUNTS, WE GATHER CLERIDES' REASONS AS FOLLOWS. CONCERTED ATTACKS ON CLERIDES' APRIL 1 REMARKS BY MAKARIOS' INNER CIRCLE (BISHOP CHRYSOSTOMOS, LYSSARIDES, PRESS) HAVE BRANDED CLERIDES AS BETRAYER OF ATHENS-NICOSIA "COMMON LINE." MORE OMINOUSLY, ADVISORS CLAIM THAT MAKARIOS DOES NOT REPEAT NOT REALLY WANT AGREEMENT IN ABOUT-TO-BE-RESUMED TALKS, GIVEN FACT HIS MINIONS WORKING TO BEEF UP PUBLIC RESISTANCE TO IDEA OF HARD COMPROMISES THAT
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WILL BE REQUIRED. HENCE, CLERIDES DOES NOT REPEAT NOT

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WISH GO THROUGH CHARADE IN VIENNA, OR (IN UNLIKELY EVENT OF AGREEMENT THERE) TAKE PUBLIC HEAT FOR SETTLEMENT UNLESS MAKARIOS, KARAMANLIS BACK HIM FULLY.

3. CLERIDES NOW MEETING WITH PARTY LEADERS, MEMBERS NATIONAL COUNCIL. GREEK EMBASSY (APOSTOLIDES) CLAIMS GOG TRYING PERSUADE CLERIDES NOT TO RESIGN AS NEGOTIATOR. AMBASSADOR DOUNTAS HAS ACTIVELY SHUTTLED BACK AND FORTH TO THIS END. REPORTS OF TELEPHONE CALLS FROM ATHENS (PROBABLY FROM KARAMANLIS OFFICE) SUPPORTING CLERIDES ARE UNCONFIRMED, BUT RING TRUE. GREEK EMBASSY ALSO CLAIMS THAT ARCHBISHOP DOES NOT REPEAT NOT WANT CLERIDES TO RESIGN.

4. PRESS REPORTS LACK INTENSE FOCUS OF LAST CLERIDES' RESIGNATION CRISIS. CLERIDES' PAPER AGHON EDITORIALIZED APRIL 9 IN FAVOR OF UNITED ATHENS-NICOSIA, MAKARIOS-CLERIDES FRONTS ON EVE RESUMED NEGOTIATIONS. PAPER CALLED FOR NEW SUMMIT TO REFORGE UNITY. THIS SUGGESTS THAT CLERIDES IN FACT WILL CONTINUE.

5. WE CANNOT RULE OUT CHANCE THAT CLERIDES WILL ULTI-MATELY RESIGN THIS TIME. HIS CHARACTER AND HISTORY, THOUGH, SUGGEST HE WILL STAY ON, USING ONCE AGAIN THREAT TO STEP DOWN AS DEVICE TO EXTRACT GREATER SUPPORT, PERHAPS IN COURSE OF SUMMIT MEETING IN ATHENS.
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